

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 24-26 are allowable for the reasons stated in the Office Action. Claims 1-23, 27, 29-30 and 31 stand rejected for the reasons stated in the Office Action. Claim 28 stands objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. In response, claims 1 and 28 have been cancelled; claims 2, 4-13 and 27 have been amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Entry of these amendments is requested.

With Respect to the Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Pages 2-5, Paragraphs 2-4 of the Office Action:

Claims 1-4, 9-12, 13-16, 18-23, 27, and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. (US 453099) for the reasons indicated on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. In response claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2-12 have been amended to depend upon claim 24 which has been allowed. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate a limitation of allowed claim 24. Claims 14-23 and 31 depend upon amended claim 13. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 5-8 and 17 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. (US 453099) in view of Vinson et al. (US 6100855) for the reasons stated on pages 4-5 of the Office Action. In response claims 5-8 have been amended to depend upon allowed claim 24. Claim 17 depends upon amended claim 13. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

Claim 28 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but believed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (claim 27) and any intervening claim. In response, claim 28 has been cancelled and claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 28.

Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. (US 4253099) in view of Kleinschmidt (US 6714170 B2) for the reasons indicated on page 5 of the Office Action. As claim 31 depends upon amended claim 13, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, claims 2-23, 27 and 29-31 are now believed to be allowable and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that all pending claims, 2-27 and 29-31, are now in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is requested. If, however, there remain any issues which can be addressed by telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

A fee of \$510 is believed due for a three month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of this fee and other fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

SHELDON & MAK

Date: September 18, 2006

By: /Robert J. Rose/
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Acting in a Representative Capacity
35 U.S.C. § 1.34

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